

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 FRB-01  
INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-15 TRSE-00 XMB-04 OPIC-06  
SP-02 LAB-04 EPG-02 SIL-01 OMB-01 NSC-05 SS-15  
STR-04 CEA-01 CU-04 DIWY-01 /098 W  
-----071959Z 101514 /72

R 071816Z JUN 77  
FM AMEMBASSY BONN  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8871  
INFO AMCONSUL BREMEN  
AMCONSUL DUSSELDORF  
AMCONSUL FRANKFURT  
AMCONSUL HAMBURG  
AMCONSUL MUNICH  
AMCONSUL STUTTGART  
USMISSION USBERLIN  
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS  
AMEMBASSY BERLIN  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY ROME

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USEEC

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: ELAB, GW  
SUBJECT: FRG UNEMPLOYMENT PICTURE REMAINS DIS-  
APPOINTING

REF: (A) BONN 08004; (B) BONN 7692

SUMMARY: ALTHOUGH THE ACTUAL NUMBER OF UNEMPLOYED IN  
THE FRG DROPPED TO BELOW THE ONE MILLION MARK FOR THE  
FIRST TIME IN SIX MONTHS, SEASONALLY ADJUSTED UNEMPLOY-  
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MENT ROSE FOR THE SECOND MONTH IN A ROW. DISAPPOINTMENT  
WITH THE GOVERNMENT'S INABILITY TO CUT UNEMPLOYMENT  
GROWS. END SUMMARY.

1. AN OVERVIEW OF THE UNEMPLOYMENT PICTURE IN THE FRG  
FOLLOWS (ALL TOTALS IN THOUSANDS; ALL RATES IN PER-  
CENTAGES):

# UNEMPLOYMENT                      COMPARISONS MAY 77      APRIL 77      MAY 76 TOTAL   RATE   TOTAL   RATE   TOTAL   RATE

SEAS.ADJ. 1.022      1.009      1.038

NON-SEAS. 946.5 4.1 1.039.2 4.6 953.5 4.2

ADJ.

MEN 464.1 3.2 522.8 3.6 499.2 3.5

TABLE (CONT'D)

MAY 77      APRIL 77      MAY 76

TOTAL   RATE   TOTAL   RATE   TOTAL   RATE

WOMEN 482.5 5.7 516.4 6.1 454.3 5.4

REG.JOB 242.8      246.4      274.5

OPENINGS

PART TIME 317.1      241.5      250.2

WORKERS

FOREIGN 89.0 4.4 98.2 4.8 100.6 4.9

WORKERS

YOUTH 80.0 3.6 89.4 4.0 80.3 3.6

(UNDER 20)

2. THE FEDERAL EMPLOYMENT SERVICE ATTRIBUTES THE DECLINE IN NON-SEASONALLY ADJUSTED UNEMPLOYMENT EXCLUSIVELY TO SEASONAL INFLUENCES. THIS WAS ALSO THE CASE IN APRIL. (THE SEASONAL MAY DECLINE, HOWEVER, WAS LESS THAN IN PREVIOUS YEARS.) THE FACT THAT THE NUMBER OF FEMALE UNCLASSIFIED

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UNEMPLOYED (482,500) AGAIN OUTNUMBERS THAT OF MALE UNEMPLOYED (464,100) ALSO REFLECTS THE INFLUENCE OF STRONG SEASONAL FACTORS AFFECTING THE CONSTRUCTION AND AGRICULTURE SECTORS, ACCORDING TO THE EMPLOYMENT SERVICE.

3. SEASONALLY ADJUSTED UNEMPLOYMENT INCREASED IN MAY BY ANOTHER 13,000 TO 1,022,000, AN INCREASE FOR THE SECOND CONSECUTIVE MONTH. (THE BUNDESANSTALT HAS REVISED ITS SEASONALLY ADJUSTED FIGURES FOR APRIL FROM 1,003,000 TO 1,009,000.).

4. GEOGRAPHICALLY, MAY UNEMPLOYMENT WAS MOST SEVERE IN LOWER SAXONY-BREMEN WITH 5 PERCENT, FOLLOWED BY NORTH RHINE-WESTPHALIA (4.7 PERCENT) AND RHINELAND-PALATINATE-SAARLAND (4.6 PERCENT). BADEN-WUERTTEMBERG AGAIN REGISTERED THE LOWEST UNEMPLOYMENT RATE WITH 2.6 PERCENT. THE NEXT LOWEST WAS SOUTH BAVARIA WITH 3.4 PERCENT AND HESSE WITH 3.7 PERCENT.

5. GENERAL REACTION TO THE MAY UNEMPLOYMENT FIGURES REFLECTS DISAPPOINTMENT WITH THE FRG'S PERFORMANCE IN REDUCING UNEMPLOYMENT. GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN ARMIN

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GRUENEWALD SPOKE OF A "DISSATISFYING DEVELOPMENT", BUT NOTED WITH PLEASURE THAT YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT HAD DECLINED 10.5 PERCENT OR 9,400 TO 80,000, THUS EXCEEDING THE OVERALL DECLINE OF UNEMPLOYMENT WHICH WAS ONLY 8.9 PERCENT. CDU SECRETARY GENERAL HEINRICH GEISSLER SAID THAT THE NEW FIGURES ARE GIVING RISE TO "MAJOR CONCERN" SINCE UNEMPLOYMENT CAN BE EXPECTED TO CLIMB BACK UP OVER THE ONE MILLION MARK IN THE COMING FALL AND WINTER MONTHS. OTTO GRAF

LAMBSDORFF, ECONOMIC SPOKESMAN FOR THE FDP BUNDESTAG  
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FACTION, LABELED THE DECLINE BELOW THE ONE MILLION  
MARK IN MAY AS A "PSYCHOLOGICALLY IMPORTANT SIGNAL",  
BUT POINTED OUT THAT THE FIGURE ITSELF GIVES NO REASON  
FOR SATISFACTION.

6. COMMENT: APRIL'S FIGURES AUGERED A SLIGHT WORSEN-  
ING OF THE UNDERLYING ECONOMIC SITUATION (REF B), A  
TREND THE MAY FIGURES CONFIRM. ESPECIALLY  
NOTEWORTHY IS THE FACT THAT THE NUMBER OF PART-TIME  
WORKERS INCREASED WHILE JOB OPENINGS DECREASED, A  
SHARP REVERSAL OF WHAT HAD BEEN AN ENCOURAGING DEVELOP-  
MENT OVER THE PAST MONTHS.

CASH

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** REPORTS, UNEMPLOYMENT DATA  
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**Decaption Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Executive Order:** N/A  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Review Release Event:** n/a  
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**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** FRG UNEMPLOYMENT PICTURE REMAINS DIS- APPOINTING  
**TAGS:** ELAB, GE  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
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US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009